

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1 1. (currently amended) A method of operating a combined on-line
2 and physical retail store for an on-line shopper, comprising the
3 steps of:
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5 receiving at a web server an order for an item by an on-line
6 shopper;

7 determining via the server ~~an~~ a real time approximate
8 quantity of the item available for purchase by the on-line
9 shopper;

10
11 adjusting via the server the real time approximate quantity
12 responsive to a quantity-held estimate of a number of units of
13 the item held by in-person shoppers who physically removed said
14 units of the item from inventory prior to checkout by the in-
15 person shoppers to provide an adjusted quantity;
16

17 comparing via the server the adjusted quantity with a first
18 threshold; and
19

20 when the adjusted quantity is less than the first threshold,
21 invoking a corrective action.

22 2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the quantity-held
23 estimate is dependent upon an average number of the item

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1 purchased historically during a specified period of time.

1 3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the quantity-held
2 estimate is dependent upon a time of day.

1 4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the quantity-held
2 estimate is dependent upon a day of a week.

3 5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the quantity-held
4 estimate is dependent upon proximity to a holiday.

1 6. (cancelled)

2 7. (cancelled)

1 8. (cancelled)

1 9. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step
2 of invoking includes the steps of monitoring the approximate
3 quantity when the adjusted quantity is less than the first
4 threshold, and informing the on-line shopper when the approximate
5 quantity falls below a second threshold.

1 10. (cancelled)

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1 11. (currently amended) A computer program product for
2 instructing a server to operate a combined on-line and physical
3 retail store, the computer program product comprising:

4 a computer readable medium;

5 first program instruction means for receiving at a web
6 server an order for an item by an on-line shopper;

7 second program instruction means for determining via the
8 server on a real time approximate quantity of the item available
9 for purchase by the on-line shopper;

10 third program instruction means for adjusting via the server
11 the real time approximate quantity responsive to a quantity-held
12 estimate of a number of units of the item held by in-person
13 shoppers who physically removed said units of the item from
14 inventory prior to checkout by the in-person shoppers to provide
15 an adjusted quantity;

16 fourth program instruction means for comparing via the
17 server the adjusted quantity with a first threshold; and

18 fifth program instruction means for when the adjusted
19 quantity is less than the first threshold, invoking a corrective
20 action; and wherein

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1 all said program instruction means are recorded on said
2 medium.

3 12. (currently amended) A method of deploying process software
4 for operating a combined on-line and physical retail store, the
5 method comprising:

6 installing the process software on a web server; and

7 invoking the process software to perform the steps of:

8 receiving at a web server an order for an item by an on-line
9 shopper;

10 determining via the server on a real time approximate
11 quantity of the item available for purchase by the on-line
12 shopper;

13 adjusting via the server the real time approximate quantity
14 responsive to a quantity-held estimate of a number of units of
15 the item held by in-person shoppers who physically removed said
16 units of the item from inventory prior to checkout by the in-
17 person shoppers to provide an adjusted quantity;

18 comparing via the server the adjusted quantity with a first

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1 threshold; and

2 when the adjusted quantity is less than the first threshold,
3 invoking a corrective action.

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